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NEC WNZ-2212

January 21, 2004

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Examiner Geoffrey S. Evans
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MESSAGE:

AMENDMENT F UNDER RULE 116Appl. Of: TANABE et al.
Serial No.: 09/612,551
Filed: July 7, 2000
For: SEMICONDUCTOR THIN FILM FORMING SYSTEM
Docket: NEC WNZ-2212

Received:

1. Amendment F under Rule 116 (3 pgs);
2. Petition for One Month Extension of Time (1 pg);
3. Form PTO-2038 for Extension Fees (1 pg); and
4. Certificate of Transmission by Facsimile (1 pg).

JAN 23 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

In re Appln. Of: TANABE et al.

Serial No.: 09/612,551

Filed: July 7, 2000

For: SEMICONDUCTOR THIN FILM FORMING SYSTEM

Group: 1725

Examiner: GEOFFREY S. EVANS

DOCKET: NEC WNZ-2212

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AMENDMENT F UNDER RULE 116
(Remarks Only)

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Action mailed September 25, 2003. A Petition for a One Month Extension of Time accompanies this Amendment.

The several art rejections are respectfully traversed.

Considering first the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 17, 18 and 22 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,932,118) in view of Mori et al. (Japanese Patent 07-266,064), the Examiner's rejection is in error. In cipher 3 (page 2) of the Detailed Action, the Examiner states that the Yamamoto et al. reference "does not disclose the specific amount that the laser beam is uniform." Applicants assume the Examiner is referring to features of claim 1, namely that the light is such that the intensity of the light on the photomask distributes within a range of $\pm 11.2\%$ of the average intensity of the light in said area, and

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Serial No. 09/612,551
Docket No. NEC WNZ-2212
Amendment F under Rule 116

therefore agrees with the Examiner. However, the Examiner refers to Mori et al. to teach a uniformity of the laser beam. But, nowhere does Mori et al. teach a photomask. Therefore, Mori et al. cannot teach the uniformity of a laser light distribution upon a photomask. And, no combination of Yamamoto et al. and Mori et al. can achieve or render obvious claims 1, 17, 18 and 22.

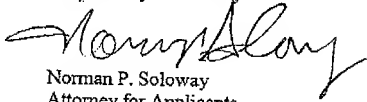
Turning to the rejection of claims 19, 20 and 21 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Yamamoto et al. in view of Mori et al. as applied to claim 17 in further view of Suzuki (Japanese Patent 06-267,826), claims 19, 20 and 21 are indirectly dependent on claim 1. The deficiencies of the combination of Yamamoto et al. and Mori et al. vis-à-vis claim 1 are discussed above. Suzuki does not cure these deficiencies. Thus, claims 19, 20 and 21 are patentable for the reasons adduced above for claim 1, as well as for their own limitations.

The foregoing Amendment makes no claim changes, and thus should be entered as a matter of right.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, it is believed the Application now is in order for allowance.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to EXAMINER
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